

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

August 7, 2022

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**“Gird your loins
and light your lamps...”**

Luke 12:35



Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 6

5:00 p.m. Scott Bowers
(Joan Bowers)

Sunday, August 7

8:15 a.m. Clair & Margaret Fry

Sunday, August 7

10:30 a.m. Carl & Barbara Weiss
(Weiss Family)

Monday, August 8

6:30 p.m. Catherine & James Smith
(Linda & Martin Smith)

Tuesday, August 9

9:00 a.m. Michael Galavage
(Kathy Vivic)

Wednesday, August 10

9:00 a.m. Deceased of the Porter &
Fleischhutt Families
(Bob & Mary Porter)

Thursday, August 11

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

Friday, August 12

9:00 a.m. George Hahner Jr.
(Hahner Family)

Saturday, August 13

5:00 p.m. Rita Bartholomew Foley
(Frances Lorenz)

Sunday, August 14

8:15 a.m. Joseph Garland
(Garland Family)

Sunday, August 14

10:30 a.m. Deceased of the
Grabowski Family
(Stan & Geri Grabowski)

Next Week's Readings

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 13/14)

Reading I: Jeremiah 18:4-6, 8-10

Reading II: Hebrews 12:1-4

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Last weekend we did our survey about the Christmas Eve Mass schedule. Here are the results and my thoughts for the future.

Not surprisingly, opinions were almost evenly split. Also not surprisingly, a slight majority of people are in favor of NOT changing the schedule. There were 95 in favor of keeping the same Christmas Eve schedule: 4pm, 6pm, and 10pm Masses. There were 88 people who indicated that they would not mind streamlining the schedule to 4pm and 7pm Masses only. It is also important to respect the fact that the majority of people who claim to regularly attend the Masses that would be affected (6pm and 10pm) favor keeping them the same (53 to 28).

Therefore, since I asked your input, I will respect these results and keep the same Christmas Eve Mass schedule *for this year*. However, we will keep an eye on attendance at the 6pm and 10pm Masses. If there is a decline, we will move to consolidate these Masses. Also, if we run into difficulties getting enough liturgical ministers (altar servers, readers, extraordinary ministers, ushers, music ministry) we will combine these Masses.

I must also point out that this Christmas Eve Mass schedule requires your priest to go almost non-stop from the middle of the afternoon until almost midnight on Christmas Eve. This is part of the life of a parish priest – I understand that. But, speaking for my brothers priests, especially here in Schuylkill County, we are not getting any younger nor are we getting any more numerous. We need you to adjust your expectations to what we can realistically accommodate.

Merry Christmas!
Fr. Bobbin



Eucharistic Adoration

A holy hour takes place in the chapel every **Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** and **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This is a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.

Pray

We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

For our Sick

Sheri Post • Robert Kline • Sandi Post

CCD Religious Education



CCD Registration for 2022/2023 School Year

It is time to register for CCD. Please fill out the form below or use the link provided. You will need a Google email account to be able to fill out the form using the link.

Google Form Link: <https://forms.gle/ULDwsF2iTDnDF5G67>

Google forms need to be completed no later than August 7th.

CCD Registration Form 2022/23 GRADES 1st - 8th

Parent Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Child #1: Full Name: _____

Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Child #2: Full Name: _____

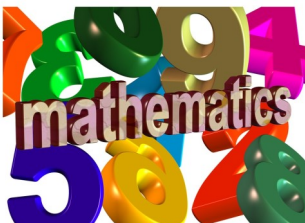
Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Child #3: Full Name: _____

Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Registration Fee is \$35.00 per family.

Return this form and fee to the rectory no later than August 7th.



Math Teacher Needed

Assumption BVM School is seeking a Full-time Middle School Math Teacher. Please send application, resume, certification and clearances to Assumption BVM School to the attention of Mrs. Teresa Keating, 112 South 7th Street, Pottsville, PA 17901

Thank You Department

We thank our many volunteers who de-weeded, planted flowers, etc. around our parish properties. Your time and talent is greatly appreciated. (Our volunteers are very humble and did not want any name recognition).



Weekly Collection

July 30/31\$5,215.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Thank you for using your Improvements & Repairs envelopes to help us meet the maintenance needs of our parish.

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Philomena Carroll by Family
2. The Most Abandoned Souls in Purgatory

St. Joseph

1. All Unborn Children
2. IMO Francis J. King by Grace King

Sanctuary

47th Wedding Anniversary of Ed & Gerry Schwartz

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. Special Intention by Frances Brahler Mickey
- 3&4. IMO Mark Mickey by Frances Brahler Mickey

Liturgical Min. Schedule

August 13 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Stanley Gorski

August 14— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

Euch.Min.: John Corbacio

Servers: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Ed Brahler

August 14— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: John Crane

Servers: Kelly, Lauren, Megan Goodman

Cantor: Dave Derbes

Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome **Kaitlyn Daniels** to St. John's Parish Family. Kaitlyn is a registered nurse. Warmly welcome Kaitlyn into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

Banns of Marriage

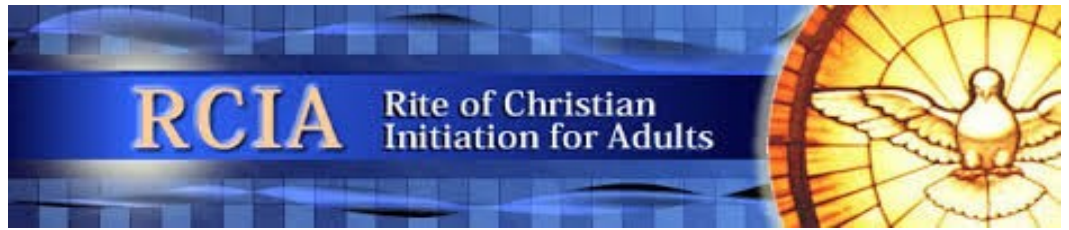
II—Rebecca Derbes and David Bobersky

Family Matters

Expecting Parents. We invoke a special blessing on all our expecting parents. May God protect and nurture this new life that is growing. We as a parish community salute your decision to choose and care for this unborn baby. This week we pray for all these children. God bless you mom and dad!

Prayer for our Troops Around the World

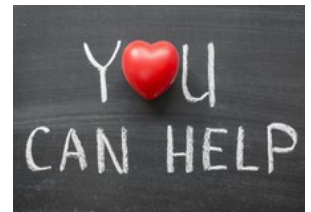
"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior."



RCIA is for anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or in updating and deepening their understanding of the Catholic Faith. Are you interested in deepening your own faith? Or do you know anyone who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Please invite them to join us. Have them call St. John's Rectory, 622-5470, to register for the RCIA sessions. All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

Parish Outreach

As members of one parish family, we try to be attentive to each other's needs and help each other when possible. We are looking for anyone who would be able and willing to assist senior parishioners with limitations by driving them to appointments or errands, etc. Please call the rectory if you are interested in being someone we can call upon to assist a fellow parishioner.



Soup Kitchen Cooks/Servers Needed

Provide a welcoming, respectful environment for the homeless and those in need. Individuals are needed to serve a meal at the Pottsville Area Kitchen once a month. Meals are served Monday through Thursday from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Sundays at 12:00 P.M. Currently, we are providing grab and go meals and follow CDC guidelines. All volunteers must complete background checks, trainings and forms. For more information please contact Terry Alexander 570-617-2957 or terry-pak@comcast.net or Bob Olney at 610-435-1541 ext 327 or rolney@allentowndiocese.org

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome! If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

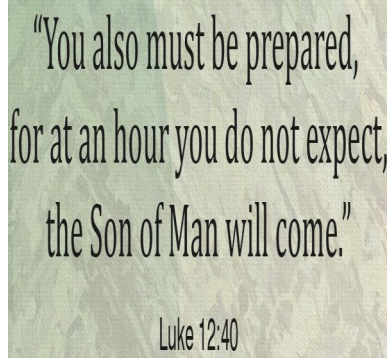


Neighboring Events

Holy Family Parish of Minersville is holding their Annual Basket Auction on Sunday, August 14th at the Parish Center at Hillcrest. There will be lots of great prizes and delicious food! Browse and Bid is Friday, August 12th from 5 to 8 pm and Saturday, August 13th from 4 to 8 pm. Doors open Sunday, August 14th at 11am and auction begins at 2 pm.

Flowers at the Altar

The flowers in front of the altar this weekend ...
Living and Deceased Members of the
Glunz and Schwartz Families
Donated by Ed & Gerry Schwartz





August 7, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Wis 18:6-9 | Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or Heb 11:1-2, 8-12 |
Lk 12:32-48 or Lk 12:35-40

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I remember the first time I moved: A suitcase or two fit in the back of my dad's lime-green Delta 88 as my parents dropped me off at college. Four years later, it took that plus a large black chest. The next move required a U-Haul; then came marriage, a family, and a moving van. I may not store my treasure in barns like the man in last week's readings, but at times it feels that way. It's natural to accumulate more "stuff" as we grow older. But in today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we won't take any of it with us when we make the move to our final destination. Rather than focus on our possessions, he encourages us to be vigilant, remain faithful, and live in service to others. In doing so, we will store up "an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Few things throw me into a panic like unexpected company. I have taken to at least cleaning the kitchen counter and bathrooms before going on a trip so the house will look presentable should something befall me and others have to come in with food or aid! We truly do not know the day or the hour, and the Gospel today encourages us to apply a little of that spring cleaning to our souls. Each day presents a new opportunity to prepare for the day we meet Jesus. If we've been out of touch, we can get reacquainted through prayer. If we feel weighed down by things we've done or said, we can bring them to the Lord through the sacrament of reconciliation. We can witness to our belief in God's promise of eternal life by putting people above possessions and supporting one another as we seek to live as Jesus taught us.

ACTION Today's psalm response is: "Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own." Count your blessings and write a few of them down, giving thanks to God for each of them.



St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

The year was 258 A.D. It was a difficult beginning for what would become the First Christian Millennium. Hostility against the early followers of Jesus Christ was growing. The barbarism and severity of pagan Rome had begun to reach a fever pitch. It would soon lead to a blood lust. The newborn Christian Church, faithful to the One who had given Himself for the life of the world, continued the work of His redemption.

Roman authorities charged Christians of that era with "odium humani generis" [hatred of the human race]. The Romans claimed to be citizens of a great empire, yet they practiced primitive forms of abortion as well as "exposure", the killing of unwanted newborns.

First and Second century Rome was a challenging mission field for these early Christians. Rome proclaimed itself the shining example to the world of its age while it violated the Natural Moral Law and embraced debauchery. Sound familiar?

The day that Deacon Lawrence experienced his birth from death to life was an ominous and frightful day in ancient Rome. Four days earlier, the great Bishop of Rome, Sixtus, was arrested by soldiers of the emperor Valerian, along with his beloved deacons, and beheaded.

Valerian had issued an edict to the Roman Senate that all the Christian clergy-bishops, priests and deacons-were to be arrested and executed. There were so many holy people among the martyrs of early Rome. That makes it even more remarkable that the life and death of this one humble Deacon-Lawrence-is attributed with all of Rome becoming Christian.

Sentenced to death in the Emperor Valerian's sweeping condemnation of all Christian clergy, Lawrence offended the Emperor - and endeared himself to all Christians since then - by assembling before Valerian the real gold and silver of the Church, the poor.

According to the Christian tradition, Deacon Lawrence, knowing that the fervor of Valerians' hatred was extending to all Christians who owned property, began to give it all away. He distributed the money and treasures of the Church to the city's poor-believing the clear admonition of the Savior that they were blessed and especially loved by Him.

Valerian heard the news and wanted the treasure to satisfy his unbridled lust for worldly power. So, he offered Deacon Lawrence a way out of sure death. If he would show him where the Church's great gold and silver were located, he would issue an order of clemency, sparing his life so that he could continue his work.

Valerian was delighted when the deacon asked for three days to gather all the gold and silver of the Church together in one central place! His pride and greed filled blinded him from seeing the truth.

For three days, Deacon Lawrence went throughout the city and invited all the beloved poor, handicapped, and misfortunate to come together. They were being supported by a thriving early Christian community who understood the Gospel imperative to recognize Jesus in the poor.

When Valerian arrived, Deacon Lawrence presented him with the true gold and silver of the Church, the poor! The emperor was filled with rage! Beheading was not enough for this Christian Deacon. He ordered Deacon Lawrence to be burned alive, in public, on a grid-dle. Witnesses recorded the public martyrdom. The deacon cheerfully offered himself to the Lord Jesus and even joked with his executioners!

The tradition records massive conversions to the Christian faith as a result of the holy life and death of one Deacon who understood the true heart of his vocation. He was poured out, like his Master, Jesus Christ the Servant, in redemptive love, on behalf of others. It is still said to this day that all of Rome became Christian as a result of the faithful life, and the death, of this one humble deacon. He was buried in a cemetery on the Via Tiburtina. On that spot, Constantine would later build a Basilica.

A special devotion to Lawrence, deacon and martyr, spread throughout the entire Christian community. Early Christians had no doubt that those who had gone to be with the Lord continued to pray for those who still struggled in this earthly life. They saw in Lawrence a great example of how to live, and how to die, faithful to the Gospel.

Years later, St Augustine reflected on the heroism of this great deacon in a sermon preached on his feast day, emphasizing that his life and death were an example for all Christians to emulate: "I tell you again and again my brethren, that in the Lord's garden are to be found not only the roses of His martyrs. In it there are also the lilies of the virgins, the ivy of wedded couples, and the violets of widows. On no account may any class of people despair, thinking that God has not called them."

The life and death of Deacon Lawrence speaks the timeless message of the Gospel to all who will listen. Whether we are ever called to shed our blood in what has traditionally been called red martyrdom or simply called to offer our sacrifices daily in a continuous life of poured-out love, traditionally called white martyrdom, we continue the redemptive work of the Lord through our daily Christian lives and participation in the life of the Church. The Deacon and martyr Lawrence offered himself fully to Jesus Christ - and shows us the way to do the same.

Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Lawrence Lonergan*

Parish Council President*Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist*David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Lucilla Kochol*

Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
E-mail..... stjbparish@comcast.net
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information (570) 622-5470

C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

Bulletin Deadline

Monday prior to publication

New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays..... 4:15 to 4:45 p.m..
 Sundays 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..
 or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
 Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.
 Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C., L.P.C. (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

“Blessed are those servants whom
 the master finds vigilant
 on his arrival.”

